



**Ambassador Lewis Lukens
Remarks
Peace Corps Swearing-in
Chief of Mission Residence
Friday, November 30, 10:00 am**

Excellence Madame le Ministre d'Etat, Secrétaire General de la Présidence de la République ;

Excellence Monsieur le Ministre de l'Agriculture;

Excellence Monsieur le Ministre de l'Environnement et de la Nature Maritime;

Excellence Monsieur l'Ambassadeur du Japon au Sénégal;

Excellence Monsieur l'Ambassadeur de la République de Corée au Sénégal ;

Le Directeur de l'Assistance Technique

Les Directeurs et Chefs de Services ;

Les Représentants des Institutions Internationales ;

Madame la Directrice du Corps de la Paix ;

Mesdames, Messieurs les Invités ;

Chers Amis Volontaires et Stagiaires ;

Mesdames, Messieurs ;

Je suis ravi de vous accueillir tous à la résidence de l'Ambassadeur des Etats-Unis d'Amérique pour cette cérémonie. For me, it's the third time I have gotten the opportunity as Ambassador to swear in a new group of volunteers. While the basic components of the ceremony may remain more or less the same, it is still one of my favorite things to do. It is also a great pleasure to have so many good Senegalese friends in my home to celebrate again the modèle de collaboration fructueuse that the Peace Corps represents.

Aujourd'hui, je voudrais particulièrement remercier les représentants des Ministères de l'Artisanat et du Tourisme ; de l'Agriculture ; de

l'Environnement et de l'Assainissement ; des Enseignements Secondaire, Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique ; du Sport et de la Jeunesse et de la Santé. C'est votre soutien qui fait de ce programme un aussi grand succès. Nous comptons sur vous pour que ces volontaires réussissent.

Et maintenant, il faut m'excuser, mais je vais continuer mon discours en anglais ; parce qu'il y a quelques volontaires ici qui comprennent mieux le Wolof, le Pulaar, le Mandinka et le Sérer que le Français.

Just two months ago, you arrived in Senegal, anxious to begin your volunteer service. Now – armed with the technical skills, language, and culture you acquired during training – you're ready to become full-fledged volunteers, serving in the cities and remote villages of Senegal.

We are all proud of your values and dedication. Each of you has chosen to devote two years of your lives in service to the people of Senegal. You have each worked very hard over the last nine weeks to get ready for this challenge.

Of course, you could not have done this without the amazing Peace Corps trainers and staff. As always, they played a very important role, getting you ready to face the challenges ahead. Please join me in thanking them.

Another very important group that we must thank, though they unfortunately could not be with us today, are those family members, friends, and mentors who instilled in you a drive for international service. You honor them today with this accomplishment.

You will take the oath today in the presence of your community sponsors – those from your training villages, and those from the villages that you will call home for the next two years. These local partners are the best witnesses of the impact Peace Corps volunteers have on Senegalese communities.

A nos partenaires et familles d'accueil, j'aimerais vous exprimer nos remerciements pour votre importante contribution dans la préparation de ces nouveaux volontaires aux fonctions qu'ils sont sur le point d'occuper.

Now if the trainees will please stand:

Before reading the oath, I want to recall for you that you have traveled a long road to arrive at this point and you are now ready to commit to two

years of service in Senegal and to uphold the three goals of the Peace Corps:

- To provide technical assistance to the people of Senegal;
- To contribute to a better understanding of Americans on the part of Senegalese; and
- To contribute to a better understanding of Senegalese by fellow Americans.

In taking the oath, you swear your allegiance to the United States' Constitution, joining famous Americans including Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and John F. Kennedy, who have spoken these same words. In taking this oath, you bind yourself to a proud tradition of service in the best spirit of America.

Trainees please raise your right hands and repeat after me:

I, (state your name) DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR THAT I WILL SUPPORT AND DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES AGAINST ALL ENEMIES FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC,

AND THAT I WILL BEAR TRUE FAITH AND ALLEGIANCE TO THE SAME,

THAT I TAKE THIS OBLIGATION FREELY, WITHOUT ANY MENTAL RESERVATION OR PURPOSE OF EVASION,

AND THAT I WILL WELL AND FAITHFULLY DISCHARGE MY DUTIES IN THE PEACE CORPS,

SO HELP ME GOD.

Congratulations! You are now officially Peace Corps Volunteers!